

## THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S DOMESTIC LAW COMMITTEE

### **PURPOSE**

The Domestic Law Committee will provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding family domestic law, including domestic violence. The Committee will recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of domestic law.

### **SCOPE OF ACTIVITY**

The Committee will review all policies, rules and legislation regarding family domestic matters to include areas such as adult guardianship, domestic violence, custody, and child support. It will make recommendations regarding the same. The Committee will review systemic issues regarding domestic law and make recommendations for improvement. It also will collaborate with justice partners to ensure a holistic approach to the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives involving domestic matters. The Committee will oversee the review and update of the Domestic Violence Manual and other Judiciary publications and forms related to domestic law. The Committee will report on its initiatives and other activities, at least annually, to the Judicial Council.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

*Hon. Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Chair*

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Hon. Cathy H. Serrette, Vice Chair, Circuit Court, Prince George's Co.	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Family Magistrate JoAnn Asparagus, Circuit Court, Caroline County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. Cynthia Callahan, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Deborah S. Eyler, Court of Special Appeals	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Family Magistrate Alisia Ferguson, Circuit Court, Prince George's Co.	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. Kathryn G. Graeff, Court of Special Appeals	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. James H. Green, District Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Lisa A. Hall Johnson, District Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Family Magistrate Margaret Kent, Circuit Court, Worcester County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. Laura S. Kiessling, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. Mary M. Kramer, Circuit Court, Howard County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Family Magistrate Connie G. Marvel, Circuit Court, Wicomico County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Family Magistrate Charles J. Muskin, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel Co.	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. H. Jack Price, Jr., District Court, Allegany County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Family Magistrate Richard J. Sandy, Circuit Court, Frederick County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Dorothy J. Wilson, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, Esq., *Staff*

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **NAME: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PEACE ORDER SUBCOMMITTEE**

#### **NATURE AND PURPOSE**

The Domestic Violence and Peace Order Subcommittee will provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation that relate to domestic violence and peace orders. The Subcommittee will recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective management of domestic violence and peace order proceedings. The Subcommittee will also review and update the Domestic Violence Manual, together with the Domestic Violence and Peace Order forms in use in the Circuit and District Courts.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

*Hon. Angela M. Eaves, Chair*

Hon. Dorothy Jean Wilson, <i>Vice Chair</i> , District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. James Green, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Lisa Hall-Johnson, District Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Michael T. Pate, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Gregory Sampson, District Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Hon. Kimberly Thomas, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

#### **CONSULTANTS**

Timothy D. Haven  
Tiwana Richardson  
Jamie Walter  
Roberta L. Warnken  
Powel Welliver

David R. Shultie, Esq., *Staff*

#### **ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT**

This subcommittee will prepare an annual update to the Domestic Violence Manual, and update on line Judiciary forms for Peace Order and Domestic Violence cases to ensure compliance with periodic statutory Revisions. The Subcommittee also will assist in preparing trainings, in addition to those offered through the Judicial Institute, for commissioners and other court staff on issues related to domestic violence. The Subcommittee will screen and comment on legislative initiatives referred to the Domestic Law Committee that relate specifically to domestic violence and peace order matters.

#### **EXPECTED DURATION**

In light of the need for ongoing updates to the domestic violence manual, and the domestic violence and peace order forms and the need for training on issues in these areas, it is anticipated that this will be a standing committee of indefinite duration.

## **WORKGROUPS**

### **NAME: LEGISLATIVE REVIEW WORKGROUP**

#### **PURPOSE**

This work group provides commentary, input, and testimony as needed to assist the Legislative Committee in its review of legislative initiatives in the domestic law arena.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Hon. Kathleen Gallogly Cox, *Chair*  
Hon. Cynthia Callahan  
Hon. Laura S. Kiessling  
Hon. Cathy H. Serrette

Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, Esq., *Staff*

#### **ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT**

This work group will provide input to the Legislative Committee concerning proposed legislation in the domestic law arena. This group will also assist in providing testimony or commentary, upon request from the Legislative Committee, for legislative matters in the domestic law area.

#### **EXPECTED DURATION**

This work group will meet throughout the legislative session, subject to extension if there are study groups or commissions that require legislative input outside the legislative session. This work group will likely be re-formed in December each year, in anticipation of the legislative session.

### **NAME: GUARDIANSHIP WORKGROUP**

#### **PURPOSE**

This work group has been tasked with surveying existing guardianship practices throughout the State in order to make recommendations to ensure best practices are employed in guardianship matters to ensure the safety and well-being of those subject to guardianship, and the effective management and accounting for guardianship assets.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Hon. Karen Murphy Jensen, *Chair*

Hon. Alison L. Asti  
Hon. Althea M. Handy  
Hon. Louis Becker  
Hon. Patrick L. Woodward

## **CONSULTANTS**

Angela Grau  
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Sharon Christmas DeBerry  
Valarie Colmore

Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, *Staff*

## **ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT**

This work group will review and update guardianship forms in use throughout the State. The work group will also review and make recommendations for training for guardianship attorneys and for guardians, and will make recommendations concerning implementation of best practices to ensure proper care for the safety and well-being of those subject to guardianship, along with standards employed in overseeing management of guardianship assets.

## **EXPECTED DURATION**

This work group is expected to conclude its work in one to two years. A report on the status of these projects will be made by December 2015, and the expected duration will be reviewed at that time.